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REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1890.

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

SUBMITTED TO THE TRUSTEES JAN. 14, 1891.

To the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden:

In compliance with the resolution of the Board directing an annual statement or report to be prepared by the President and Secretary for publication, showing the management and financial condition of the trust, the following statement is submitted, covering the entire period since the organization of the Board up to December 31, 1890.

By an act of the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, approved March 14, 1859, the late Henry Shaw was authorized and empowered to convey certain real estate and personal property to trustees for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a botanical garden; and by his will, dated Jan. 26, 1885, certain real and personal property was bequeathed to trustees named therein "for the object and with the view of having for the use of the public a botanical garden, easily accessible, which should be forever kept up and maintained for the cultivation and propagation of plants, flowers, fruit and forest trees, and other productions of the vegetable kingdom; and a museum and library connected therewith, and devoted to the same and to the science of botany, horticulture and allied objects."

Mr. Shaw departed this life Aug. 25, 1889, and on Sept. 10, 1889, seven of the trustees named in the will met for consultation.

The Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden was duly organized Oct. 14, 1889 by a majority of the

trustees living at the time of Mr. Shaw's death, and immediately entered into possession of the real estate and the personal property contained in his town residence and the garden, not otherwise bequeathed, and have collected and disbursed the revenue from the same since Sept. 1, 1889.

In order to have a basis for the valuation of the real estate bequeathed to them under the will of Mr. Shaw, the Board caused a set of books to be opened by its Secretary, charging the real estate account with each piece of property at its assessed value and crediting this amount to stock account, thus showing a valuation of \$1,241,274.00, which property is held for revenue purposes.

In addition to this, the Missouri Botanical Garden was charged with that portion of the estate known as Shaw's Garden, including the Arboretum and Fruticetum and also the farm surrounding it on the south and west, at its assessed valuation of \$123,160.00, and the stock account was credited with a like amount, making the total assessed value of the real estate which came into possession of the Board \$1,366,334.00.

This does not include any of the personal property yet in the hands of the Public Administrator; but comparatively little can be realized from this source, as most of it will be absorbed in paying legacies, and the state, school and city taxes for the years 1889 and 1890.

Much of the property was in very bad repair, and some of it vacant for that reason, but by a liberal but judicious expenditure it has been placed in reasonably good condition and was promptly occupied by profitable and desirable tenants.

A large amount has been expended upon the Garden for labor, repairs and improvements, the reasons for which fully appear from the Director's annual report. Referring for the amounts so expended to the cash statement herewith, and to the Director's report for details, the following may be briefly stated here: —

About forty men have been constantly employed in and

about the Garden, Arboretum and Fruticetum, at an average aggregate cost for labor of \$1,135.00 per month, including wages of the head gardener and three foremen.

It was found absolutely necessary for their preservation to repair extensively the improvements at the Garden, including the heavy stone wall surrounding it, more than 4,000 feet long, and averaging ten feet in height; the stone gateway on Tower Grove avenue, and the plant houses and other structures; also to improve and extend the drainage of the gravel walks and other portions of the grounds, and to replace almost entirely the brick edging of the flower beds. An inspection of the stone wall, erected more than twenty years ago, disclosed serious and increasing injury from frost, making it necessary to repoint with cement the entire surface of more than 1,300 linear feet, besides resetting almost the entire coping. The stone work of the main gateway, built in 1859, part of which was cracked and unsafe from like causes, has been repaired and strengthened. Decaying woodwork and crumbling brick and stonework in the plant houses also required replacing to a much greater extent than appeared on a casual examination. It was also necessary to extend, in fact almost entirely to renew, the imperfect drainage of the gravel walks, especially in the neighborhood of the museum and the residence, and to begin the proper drainage of the Fruticetum, for which purpose some 4,200 feet of drain tiles have been laid in all; to entirely replace more than three miles of brick edging of the flower beds which had become dilapidated and unsightly; and to rebuild about 4,650 feet of fencing on the Garden and neighboring property, too badly decayed to be repaired, besides repairing as much more.

The supply of water heretofore exclusively obtained, both for garden and residence purposes, from wells and cisterns at the Garden, proved in part unsafe for use and altogether insufficient during the exceptional drought of last summer. The only remedy for this was to make a connec-

tion with the city main on Magnolia avenue, which was done at a first cost of some \$2,300.00.

Very soon after the Director occupied the residence at the Garden assigned to him by Mr. Shaw's will, serious sickness in his family induced the Board to cause a competent inspection of the sanitary condition of the building. It was found so unsafe, as the result of very defective drainage for many years past, that a difficult problem was presented, the only solution of which was found to be to rebuild the eastern wing of the dwelling and to provide proper sewerage for the entire building. The house occupied by the head gardener, on the Manchester road, was also found to require considerable repairs and suitable provision for drainage.

Besides these unavoidable expenditures for the preservation of the property, the increase of the library and the proper mounting of the very valuable Engelmann Herbarium, both expressly provided for in the will of Mr. Shaw, involved a considerable outlay, as shown by the annexed statement. As further provided in the will, and in pursuance of separate memoranda left by Mr. Shaw as suggestions for the Trustees, six scholarships for "Garden Pupils" were established by the Board, early in 1890, for practical and theoretical education in horticulture, to be filled by competitive examination. Four such pupils are now employed at the Garden, the building on Tower Grove and Magnolia avenues, formerly known as the Casino, being occupied by them and other employees. Public notice has been given by the Director of the two scholarships now vacant, and competition invited for them in March next.

Reference must be made to the very full and interesting report of the Director for the past year, to be published in the annual volume for 1891, for many other details of the management of the Garden, including the steps taken for the greater accommodation of visitors, the prohibition of fees formerly paid by persons leaving vehicles at the gate,

the care and cultivation of the Garden, and the improvement of the grounds.

In all these respects the Director has intelligently and faithfully sought to carry out the desire of Mr. Shaw that the attractive and ornamental features of the Garden should be maintained and increased. His efforts to that end have been aided by the suggestions of the Garden Committee, who have regularly devoted one afternoon of each month to an inspection of the Garden and grounds and conference with the Director, and have been supported by the cordial co-operation of the Board.

The cash receipts and expenditures since the Board have been in possession of the property, for sixteen months from Sept. 1, 1889, to Dec. 31, 1890, have been as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

Rents from stores, dwellings and lands.....	\$119,323 96
Other sources.....	1,517 97
Total receipts.....	<u>\$120,841 93</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Office of the Board —		
Salaries, Secretary.....	\$2,587 36	
Stationery, printing, etc.....	1,643 99	
Janitor.....	420 00	4,651 35
Garden account —		
Labor.....	18,207 48	
Fuel	1,099 94	
Stable, feed, etc.....	578 50	
Repairs and supplies.....	8,420 15	
Lodge and garden pupils.....	2,467 06	
Bulbs, seeds, plants, etc.....	622 29	
Herbarium, Specimens and mounting.....	5,208 91	
Library, Books and subscriptions.....	5,532 38	
Office, Director, assistants, etc.....	6,932 47	49,069 18
Improvements, Water pipe and attachments....	2,334 01	
Director's residence and repairs.....	7,471 17	9,805 18
Property for revenue purposes —		
Streets, Pavements and sewers.....	1,052 54	
Improvements.....	1,075 00	
Sprinkling tax.....	447 07	
Insurance, average 3 years, renewals.....	7,962 45	
Repairs	10,549 48	
Commissions, for collection of rents.....	4,263 85	25,350 39
Forward.....		<u>88,876 10</u>

Forward		\$88,876 10
General Account —		
Washington University, School of Botany.....	\$3,500 00	
Legal expense, F. N. Judson.....	1,144 90	
Annual Flower Sermon.....	200 00	
Trustees' Annual Banquet.....	1,063 25	
Gardeners' Annual Banquet.....	358 80	
Publications.....	1,493 65	\$7,760 60
Total expenditures.....		96,636 70
Balance in bank and office.....		24,205 23
		<u>\$120,841 93</u>
Financial condition, Dec. 31, 1890 —		
Cash on hand and in bank.....	24,205 23	
Uncollected rents due Dec. 31, 1890.....	7,349 50	31,554 73
Less amount due capital stock account for sale of horses and other stock.....		504 00
Balance		<u>\$31,050 73</u>

The books of the Board have been closed after showing the operations for the sixteen months ending Dec. 31, 1890, and the receipts have been disposed of as follows: —

Rent account, including rents due to January 1,
1891, in course of collection, \$7,349.50..... \$126,673 46

CONTRA.

Garden expenses.....	\$48,617 22	
Office expenses	4,651 35	
Commissions.....	4,263 85	
Repairs	9,986 98	
Insurance	7,962 45	
Taxes, Sprinkling	447 07	
Streets, Pavements and sewers.....	1,052 54	
Washington University.....	3,500 00	
New improvements.....	10,880 18	
Legal expenses.....	1,144 90	
Flower Sermon.....	200 00	
Trustees' Annual Banquet.....	1,063 25	
Gardeners' " "	358 80	
Publications	1,493 65	
Fire losses in excess of repairs for same.....	49	
	<u>\$95,622 73</u>	
Balance, surplus for 1889 and 1890.....	31,050 73	
	<u>\$126,673 46</u>	<u>\$126,673 46</u>

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. LACKLAND, *President.*

Attest,

A. D. CUNNINGHAM, *Secretary.*